

Message Text

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64

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NSF-02 NASA-02 L-02 /022 W

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R 112343Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7183

UNCLAS MEXICO 3172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, MX

SUBJ: EXPERIMENTAL BALOON OVERFLIGHTS: NSF FINANCED
RESEARCH PROJECT

REF: STATE A-2297

1. REFAIRGRAM, RECEIVED APRIL 9, REQUESTS EMBASSY OBTAIN CLEARANCE FOR 4 PLANNED OVERFLIGHTS IN THE JUNE-AUGUST TIME FRAME, TOGETHER WITH PERMISSION FOR TRACKING AIRCRAFT IN EACH CASE, AND FOR CREW TO ENTER MEXICO AND RETRIEVE BALOON SCIENTIFIC PAYLOAD.

2. EMBASSY EXPERIENCE BOTH PAST AND AGAIN VERY RECENT INDICATES THAT DESIRED CLEARANCES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE FORTHCOMING, AS PERUSAL OF THE FILES IN OES/SCI, ARA/MEX, NASA AND NSF WILL DISCLOSE.

3. SCI AND POL RECALL VIVIDLY RECENT FONSEC NEGATIVES ON GEODOLITE TRACKING AND PROJECT VIKING. AIR ATTACHE HAS HAD RECENT REQUESTS FOR MUCH SIMPLER OPERATION TURNED DOWN BY DEFENSA.

4. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSISTS, EMBASSY HAS NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO PROCESS DESIRED CLEARANCE REQUESTS.

5. ALTERNATIVELY, AWARE OF NSF NEGOTIATIONS OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS WITH CONEE (MEXICAN SPACE COMMISSION) AND CONACYT ON JOINT BALOON PROJECT FROM SAME NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC BALOON FACILITY AT PALESTINE, TEXAS, WHICH
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WOULD RENDER LAUNCHES FROM THAT BASE MUCH MORE

PRODUCTIVE SCIENTIFICALLY AND EVEN PROVIDE FOR TURNAROUND
FLIGHTS (BUT NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT PRESENT STATUS THOSE
NEGOTIATIONS) EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN
TO MAKING PRESENT PROJECT A JOINT ACTIVITY WITH INTERESTED
GOM AGENCY OR AGENCIES, UNDER PRESENT BILATERAL S&T AGREE-
MENT OF SIMILAR VEHICLE.

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